

basis provisions in current law so heirs to an estate do not receive a large capital gains bill as they would if Congress repealed the estate tax entirely. All of these changes would take place immediately. The Treasury Department estimates that increasing the estate credit to \$6 million would exempt approximately 99 percent of all estates without the dramatic loss in revenues.

Mr. Speaker, the substitute is also paid for. In this environment when our budget is in crisis, it is critically important that we do not continue to drown ourselves in red ink. The majority's bill would cost over \$60 billion a year, at a time when we are running a \$400 billion annual deficit. We simply cannot afford to borrow even more money to provide additional tax cuts.

Again, I have supported previous efforts to provide estate tax relief because, in the past, we have been able to afford it. I am concerned, however, that the total costs of these bills will continue to drive our nation into debt, and reduce our ability to deal with the long-term challenges facing Social Security and Medicare. Until we deal with the long term financial problems facing Social Security, we need to be very careful about any tax or spending bills that would place a greater burden on the budget in the next decade, effectively transferring these costs and burdens to our children and grandchildren.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO
ESPERANZA ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding organization in Ohio. Esperanza, Ohio's only non-profit association dedicated to the promotion and advancement of education for Hispanics, has been serving the Hispanic community in Northeastern Ohio since 1983.

Over the duration of the last twenty years, Esperanza has become a vital asset to the Hispanic population in Ohio, aiding thousands of Hispanic youth with educational programming, tutoring, mentoring, college and career guidance, and scholarship opportunities for students pursuing higher educational opportunities.

Esperanza conducts programs for Cleveland youth in elementary, middle and high school. Furthermore, Esperanza offers a complimentary, instructional computer program to neighborhood residents. The fully equipped Community Technology Center provides individualized training sessions in keyboarding, data entry, Microsoft Office, Windows, and the Internet to Hispanics of all ages.

Esperanza's competitive scholarship program offers an annual process that is available to all Hispanic students residing in Northeastern Ohio. In 2002, with the aid of various corporations, educational institutions and individual donors, Esperanza was able to reward forty-seven Hispanic students with scholarships at the annual Fiesta of Hope Scholarship Luncheon.

NASA Glenn Research Center and Dr. Michael Schwartz, President of Cleveland State University, will co-chair this year's Fiesta of Hope Scholarship Luncheon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Esperanza on occasion of the 20th anniversary celebration. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and philanthropic organizations, like Esperanza, who genuinely care about the well-being of Northeastern Ohio's Hispanic community.

REMEMBERING THE CONTRIBUTION
AND LIFE OF GEORGE
THOMAS "MICKEY" LELAND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, as we consider a resolution recognizing the work of our late colleague in the alleviation of hunger, I would like to honor George Thomas "Mickey" Leland for his contributions to this country and the world. He may have been the greatest advocate for the hungry that the House of Representatives has ever known. Mickey was born on November 27, 1944, in Lubbock, Texas. From 1972, when he was first elected into public office, until his death in 1989, Mickey Leland fought on behalf of the hungry, poor and less fortunate around the world. Neither partisanship nor race nor political boundaries prevented Mickey from reaching those who needed him. Republicans and Democrats alike respected Mickey for his determination and moral rectitude. I urge my friends and colleagues in this chamber to honor Mickey's memory by rededicating ourselves to eradicating world hunger and the poverty which is its cause.

In 1984, Leland co-authored legislation creating the House Select Committee on Hunger. It was the Committee's responsibility to focus solely on the widespread problems of hunger and malnutrition. Mickey chaired the Committee from its inception until his death. The Committee's efficacy stemmed from his unwavering moral leadership. He legislated on infant mortality, fresh food for at-risk women and children, and comprehensive services for the homeless. Mickey Leland refused to narrow the scope of his energy and dedication to his own country. Following reports of famine in sub-Saharan Africa, Speaker "Tip" O'Neil appointed Leland to lead a bipartisan Congressional delegation created to assess the magnitude of Africa's needs. The findings of that delegation resulted in \$800 million in humanitarian relief.

In his pursuit to help the needy, Mickey traveled around the world. He met with Fidel Castro to reunite Cuban families and traveled to Moscow as part of joint U.S.-Soviet food initiative to Mozambique following the Cold War. He met privately with Pope John Paul II in 1987 and 1989 to garner support for his efforts in Africa. Mickey did everything he could. Those of us who were privileged to serve with him in this Congress were always inspired and challenged by Mickey to do more to alleviate the suffering of the people whom Jesus called "the least of these."

Mickey died just as he lived, trying to help. He never passed leadership to others when

he could infuse a project with his warmth and energy. Mickey was leading a mission to a refugee camp in Ethiopia when his plane crashed, killing him and 15 others. Mickey died on August 7, 1989, near Gambela, Ethiopia.

DEATH TAX REPEAL
PERMANENCY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 8 and in support of the Pomeroy substitute. The House Republican leadership and President Bush are once again putting the interests of the Bush class ahead of the needs of working families and our future well being. They are once again demonstrating that they have the wrong priorities.

Providing tax relief for low wage hard working families remains a low priority for House Republicans and the Bush Administration. Instead, they want to once again provide even more tax breaks for people who need it the least by eliminating that inheritance tax. Republicans are denying immediate assistance to 12 million children who come from families that earn between \$10,500 to \$26 a year, and where one million of the children have parents that currently serve or have served in the military. Nearly 674,000 children or one in four children back in my home state of Illinois would have qualified for this aid. This is an outrage. Talk about having your priorities backwards!

Proponents of this legislation make baseless claims that it will help small businesses, farmers and working families. The claim that the estate tax puts small family farms out of business. The National Farmers Union disputes this assertion, "There is no evidence that the estate tax has forced the liquidation of any farms, and existing estate tax already exempt 98 percent of all farms and ranches." The fact is that the estate tax currently affects only the richest 2 percent of estates, and the number dramatically shrinks as the exemption rises to \$3.5 million in 2009. H.R. 8 eliminates the tax on the wealthiest 2 percent of all Americans—people like Bill Gates and Ken Lay. In my home state of Illinois less than 2500 families would benefit from the repeal of the estate tax. The rest of the public would not benefit from it at all. In fact, it will hurt their future and further damage our struggling Bush economy, where 2.7 million private sector jobs have been lost.

H.R. 8 will hurt our economic future because it would add at least an additional trillion dollars to the federal deficit over the next twenty years. The vast majority of Americans will have to make sacrifices to pay for this tax cut for millionaires. If this bill is enacted into law there will be less money available for Social Security, Medicare, and prescription drugs for seniors, not to mention homeland security and education. Mr. Speaker, how can it be that we do not have money to fund the Leave No Child Behind Act but we do have money to give more tax cuts for the super rich? How can this be?

Let me be clear. I am a strong supporter of small businesses and family farms and I am not against reforming the estate tax. I believe that families with modest assets should be exempt from the estate tax. That is why I support the Pomeroy substitute which exempts estates worth less than \$3 million for an individual and \$6 million for families from the estate taxes. The substitute would exempt 99.65 percent of all estates.

The Bush Administration and their Republican colleagues have a one track mind. They are once again attempting to lower taxes for the richest 1%. Just last month the Bush Administration and leaders in Congress passed tax cuts for millionaires and tax dodging corporations. President Bush made it a top priority and Vice President CHENEY personally negotiated the final bill language with the Republican Congressional leadership. The tax bill passed last month will provide a \$604,000 tax break for Vice President CHENEY and \$332,000 to Treasury Secretary John Snow. In total, it could provide up to \$3.2 million in total tax savings for President Bush, Vice President CHENEY, and the Cabinet. I wonder how much the families of President Bush, Vice President CHENEY, and the Cabinet would benefit from repeal of the estate tax?

H.R. 8 undermines our basic sense of fairness. The legislation undermines progressive aspects of our tax code. It replaces it with a regressive tax code that puts more of a burden on middle and low wage families. A regressive tax code restricts opportunities for those who are not born into wealthy families. William Gates Sr., a supporter of the estate tax recently said, "What makes America great is the broad ownership of property and enterprise. We all succeed to the extent that children are born without vast disparities in access to education, health care, and opportunity. We are weakened when our policy makers are more concerned with preserving existing wealth and power than creating avenues for new asset creation and opportunity." I couldn't agree with him more.

Finally, the estate tax gives wealthy individuals an incentive to contribute to charity. Charitable organizations are very concerned about efforts to repeal the estate tax. According to the Joint Economic Committee Democrats, eliminating the estate tax could reduce contributions by 6 to 12 percent. This would reduce revenues for soup kitchens, AIDS prevention programs, and other vital community organizations that rely on charitable contributions to stay afloat.

Support America's families. Oppose the underlying bill and support the Pomeroy substitute.

TRIBUTE UPON RETIREMENT OF PAUL POGORZELSKI

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Paul Pogorzelski of Falls Church who is being honored by We United States Navy tomorrow for his 42 years of Federal service. But his abiding love of country and honor of service actually began at the young age of 12 when Paul joined the Civil

Defense as a messenger with the 72nd Precinct in Brooklyn, New York.

In 1956, Paul enlisted in the Coast Guard. Upon promotion, he was assigned to the Marshall Island Ioran station, and was responsible for the operation, maintenance and communication of Ioran equipment. After his return to the United States, he was an instructor of electronics in Connecticut. In 1960, he was honorably discharged with a good conduct medal.

He first came to Washington in the early 1960s representing Raytheon and General Electric on the TARTAR radar missile program. Paul then received a political appointment from Undersecretary Vance to the Naval Ordnance Command, working on patrol gunboat missile systems, Antelope and Ready; the Hydrofoil program; R&D and introduction of the frigate program; guided projectile program between NAVSEA and the Army at the Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey; the readiness of all Navy ships improving their readiness through the CASREP program. He also traveled to Holland to purchase the forerunner of the MK-92 fire control system.

As an intelligence liaison officer at NAVSEA, Paul handled special projects including nuclear powered submarines. He provided survivability assessments for SEA-05, SEA-08, and the PEOs. As facilities manager he engineered and built sensitive, compartmented information facilities both in Crystal City and the Washington Navy Yard, and established interconnectivity with the intelligence community.

Paul has received numerous awards and citations for his efforts in providing the Command with accurate and timely intelligence information regarding the survivability and vulnerability of our ships that were hit by foreign weapons, such as the USS *Stark*, USS *Samuel B. Roberts*, USS *Bridgetown*, USS *Princeton*, and USS *Cole*.

Our Nation is privileged to have had such a dedicated civil servant for these many years. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring him today for his lifetime commitment of outstanding service to this Nation.

HONORING TED CONNORS

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ted Connors upon his retirement from the position of Executive Director of the Portsmouth Housing Authority after 35 years of service.

The son of the city's first night-shift police officer, Ted Connors grew up in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, known as "the City of the Open Door". Ted witnessed Portsmouth change over the years from a rough-and-tumble military town into the tourist and business center it is today. This native brought a valuable hometown boy's point of view to his position.

Ted displayed an inspirational devotion to improving the quality of life for residents in his hometown. His top priority was to expand work-force housing in the region in support of the growing number of local employees being driven out of the city due to increasing hous-

ing costs. His commendable efforts led to a significant increase in the number of subsidized apartments, from 200 to 1,200.

In addition to subsidized housing, Ted instigated numerous other services for the city of Portsmouth. He developed a transportation system that supplies 120,000 rides a year for elderly persons needing to travel to medical appointments, various shopping complexes, or centers for meals. Ted also oversaw the development and completion of a new Senior Citizen's Center in October 2000, which offers various programs such as basic health care, transportation, daily lunches and social activities.

Without Ted's commitment to improving the quality of life for its residents, Portsmouth would not be the city it is today. His efforts to make New Hampshire a better place have made a lasting impact on the people that know him and know of him. Even Ted's successor has admitted that no one can truly fill the retiring director's shoes. Portsmouth and the state of New Hampshire are fortunate to have dedicated individuals like Ted working to make this city and this state a great place to live.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE BOB STUMP

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I reflect today on the passing of my dear friend Congressman Bob Stump. Bob was a great man and I am deeply saddened by his passing. He was a great American, a respected legislator, and a good friend.

He served with great distinction in Congress for twenty-six years, two years as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and six years as Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

I had the honor and privilege to serve on both of these committees with Bob as my Chairman. Although we did not always see eye to eye, I always had a great deal of respect for Bob's patriotism and leadership. Bob was a true supporter of men and women in uniform. Under his leadership, we made huge strides to improve the quality of life for our troops and veterans, increasing pay, housing, and healthcare allowances, increasing assistance to disabled veterans and their survivors, and strengthening the Montgomery GI Bill to help millions of veterans fulfill their educational and career goals.

Bob was a modest and decent man who, in dedicating the majority of his life to public service, was a dedicated patriot and a true American Hero. Bob's enthusiasm and spirit touched the lives of all who had the pleasure of meeting him. Although his presence is greatly missed in the halls of the House, I know that Bob is and will be well remembered.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Stump family and with everyone else who loved and admired him.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.